

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TANANA 00352 041345Z

43

ACTION AF-06

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R 270900Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6984

NASA HQS WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0352

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, NASA, MA

SUBJECT: NASA RENTAL QUESTION AND FINANCIAL NEEDS OF GOMR

NAIROBI FOR REDSO

REF: TANANARIVE 0309

SUMMARY: MALAGASY FONMIN, APPARENTLY AS TACTICAL MOVE ON BEHALF GENERAL ANDRIAMAHAZO IN HIS DEALINGS WITH RATSIRAKA, HAS TOLD ME PRESENT U.S. OFFER NOT SUFFICIENT COMPENSATION FOR NASA STATION. I SUGGESTED THAT, TO HELP MEET ITS NEEDS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, NEW GOMR SHOULD CONSIDER THE APPROPRIATE U.S. GOVT AGENCIES, NOT NASA. I NOTED US GOVT FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD NEW GOMR, BUT THAT THIS DISPOSITION WILL DEPEND ON RECIPROCAL GOMR UNDERSTANDING OF US INTERESTS IN MADAGASCAR. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER MALAGASY FOREIGN MINISTER ZAKARIASY HAD GIVEN ME ASSURANCE FEB 27 ON BEHALF OF MILITARY DIRECTORY CHAIRMAN, GENERAL ANDRIAMAMAHAZO, THAT NASA COMMUNICATIONS WOULD BE RESTORED NEXT WEEK, HE RAISED NASA STATION RENTAL ISSUE AND STATED MILITARY DIRECTORY DID NOT CONSIDER \$100,000 RENT PER YEAR STARTING IN 1973 AND \$3 MILLION AID RAILROAD LOAN SUFFICIENT COMPENSATION.

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PAGE 02 TANANA 00352 041345Z

2. I THEN EXPLAINED TO FONMIN LAST YEAR'S NEGOTIATIONS

ON THIS ISSUE, POINTING OUT THAT NASA AT GOMR INSISTENCE HAD RAISED ITS RENTAL OFFER TO FINAL LIMIT OF \$100,000, BUT THAT I WAS CONVINCED ON BASIS MY DISCUSSIONS WITH NASA THAT IT WOULD POSITIVELY NOT GO BEYOND THIS FIGURE. I NOTED NASA DOES NOT PAY RENT ELSEWHERE FOR ITS TRACKING STATIONS, HAS BUDGETARY PROBLEMS, AND IS INSISTENT THAT IT IS NOT A FOREIGN AID AGENCY.

3. I EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF MILITARY DIRECTORY'S DESIRE FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM U.S., AND SUGGESTED DIRECTORY SHOULD LOOK REALISTICALLY AT THOSE PARTS OF US GOVT WHERE RESOURCES MAY BE AVAILABLE. IN ADDITION TO \$3 MILLION AID RAILROAD LOAN (WHICH I NOTED US HAS AGREED TO IF NASA STATION EXTENSION, INCLUDING \$100,000 RENT, AGREED TO IN PRINCIPLE BY GOMR), I SUMMARIZED DISCUSSIONS I HAVE HAD WITH BOTH OTHER OFFICIALS IN GOMR AND EXPORT-IMPORT BANK ON POSSIBLE CREDIT TO GOMR, AND AGAIN URGED EARLY SUBMISSION OF GOMR REQUEST. I TOLD HIM WE HAVE ALSO JUST HAD INDICATION AID MIGHT BE ABLE CONSIDER FINANCING FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR FERTILIZER AND PERHAPS PESTICIDE PLANTS IF PRELIMINARY UNIDO STUDIES ADEQUATE (STATE 32884).

4. I OBSERVED THAT THERE ARE THUS INDICATIONS OF AN UNDERSTANDING ATTITUDE AND FAVORABLE DISPOSITION IN WASHINGTON TOWARD NEW GOMR, BUT THAT CONTINUATION OF THIS TREND WOULD DEPEND ON RECIPROCAL UNDERSTANDING BY NEW GOMR OF U.S. INTERESTS IN MADAGASCAR, STARTING WITH NASA STATION.

5. FONMIN APPRECIATED FRANK EXPOSITION AND STATED HE WOULD REPORT TO ANDRIAMAHAZO.

6. COMMENT: ANDRIAMAHAZO OBVIOUSLY HAVING PROBLEMS WITHIN MILITARY DIRECTORY WITH RATSIRAKA ON NASA RENTAL QUESTION. I WOULD SURMISE HE HAS HAD FONMIN RAISE AMOUNT WITH US AS TACTICAL MOVE. I THEREFORE GAVE FONMIN BEST AMMUNITION AVAILABLE TO ASSIST ANDRIAMAHAZO IN DEALING WITH HIS INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEM.

7. RECOMMENDATION: THAT DEPT AND NASA REITERATE (IF, AS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 TANANA 00352 041345Z

I ASSUME, IT IS THEIR POSITION) THAT \$100,000 ANNUALLY REPRESENTS OUTER LIMIT FOR NASA STATION RENT.  
MENDENHALL

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